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Letter dated 26 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to my report dated 16 March 2004 on the situation in Burundi (S/2004/210), in which I recommended that the Security Council should expand the Organization's role in the country, in order to provide the support required for the consolidation of the peace process.

As you know, pursuant to the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, concluded on 28 August 2000, the election of a new government in Burundi is to take place by 31 October 2004. However, much remains to be done before that date. In order to provide the greatest support for the Transitional Government, I emphasized that, if the Organization was to expand its role in the country, much work would be required in a very short period of time. Accordingly, I proposed that the African Mission in Burundi and the United Nations Office in Burundi should form the core of the military component and the civilian component, respectively, of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country.

Subject to the decisions of the Security Council, it is my intention to immediately begin planning and preparations for a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Burundi. I should be grateful for the agreement of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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